



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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Citizen input is highly encouraged!

City Comprehensive Plan update enters approval stage

After more than a year of work by elected and appointed officials, City staff members and the City's planning consultant, the update of the Comprehensive Plan has progressed to the approval stage. The first public hearing on the draft updated Plan was held before the City Council on February 24. At least two additional public meetings

will provide information on the Plan: one before the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) Technical Committee and one before the City Planning Commission.

The WILMAPCO meeting is Thursday, March 19 at 10 a.m., in the conference room in Suite 100, 850 Library Avenue, Newark. This is planned to be a presentation of the updated draft Plan, for the benefit of WILMAPCO, which has provided significant grant funding to the City for the update. This is an open, public meeting and anyone may attend.

The presentation before the Planning Commission is Monday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of the Town Hall

(201 Delaware Street). In addition to the presentation, a public hearing will be held where Planning Commission members will take comments from anyone in attendance.

Planning Commission members will decide whether or not to recommend to the City Council that the draft Plan be finalized and adopted as the City's new Comprehensive Plan. The proposal is then forwarded to the City Council for their consideration and ultimately approval and adoption.

A Comprehensive Plan is a document that sets general policy for the City's land development, transportation investment, housing strategy and community services. It typically recommends projects and programs to implement the stated policies.

continued on back

The first day to file for an Absentee Ballot for the City Election is March 5. Absentee Ballot applications are available weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the City offices at 220 Delaware Street.

The New Castle City Election will be held on Saturday, April 18 at the Good Will Fire Company. Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Here's how to apply for a tax exemption

Contact City Finance Director Marian Delaney, at 322-9811, to make an appointment to apply for the tax exemption available to seniors over 65 and persons with disabilities. Income limits are \$15,000 (single); \$30,000 (married couple). The last day to apply is June 15th.

The next regular City Council meeting is 7 p.m., Tues., March 10 at Town Hall

New Castle - The First Capital City!

2009 New Castle City Election

Absentee Ballot Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the stipulations for absentee ballot voting?

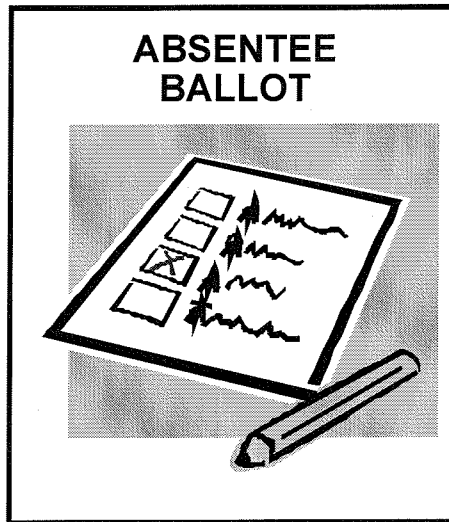
Any resident, duly registered, may cast his/her vote by absentee ballot in any city election, if s/he is unable to appear at the polling place in the City on the date of the election due to any one of the following reasons:

A. because such person is in the public service of the United States or of this state;

B. because such person is in the armed forces of the United States;

C. because such person is unavoidably absent from the City on the day of the election;

D. because such person is sick or physically disabled;



E. because such person is absent from the City while on vacation; or

F. because such person is unable to vote at a certain time or on a certain day due to the tenets or teachings of his/her religion.

2. When can I get an absentee Ballot?

Pick up Absentee Ballots at City Offices, 220 Delaware St., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., beginning March 5.

Additionally, the City Office will be open 9 a.m. to Noon, Saturday, April 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, April 13 for persons to obtain Absentee Ballots. All absentee ballots must be received no later than Noon, April 17 (the day before the election).

For FAQs and answers on general election items, see the February edition of this newsletter, copies available at the City offices, or on-line at www.NewCastleCity.org.

Comprehensive Plan

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In 2003, the City of New Castle adopted an entirely new Comprehensive Plan, which was a major project involving the City Council, Planning Commission and City residents, and included a series of community meetings. The State

of Delaware requires the Plan to be updated every five years, and the update builds on the considerable work and recommendations of the 2003 Plan.

The 2003 Plan and the new draft Plan and maps may be accessed via the City Web site at: www.NewCastleCity.org.

Residents may also request the new draft Plan and maps be sent to them via e-mail by sending a request to:

CathrynThomas@NewCastleCity.org.

In mid-September, the Planning Commission hosted a workshop for local residents and businesses to provide input on the update. Participation by the numerous persons in attendance was extremely beneficial to the overall process of updating the current Plan.

For anyone who has comments, however cannot make them in person, they will be accepted in writing and forwarded to appointed and elected officials. Send them to the City offices at 220 Delaware Street, or via e-mail to: CathrynThomas@NewCastleCity.org.

Code Enforcement Corner

Code Enforcement helps to maintain and improve the quality of the City of New Castle by administering an unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of City zoning, property maintenance and building codes; and working with residents, neighborhoods, public service agencies and other City offices.

To report any problems, or file a complaint, please call the Office of Code Enforcement at 221-6507. Complaint forms are also available at the City Offices or on the City Web site at www.NewCastleCity.org. All complaints are handled on a confidential basis. If feedback and/or updates are requested, however, a name, address and phone number need to be provided with the complaint.